

Appl. No. 10/607,645  
Atty. Docket No. 6269RDC  
Reply to Advisory Action mailed April 10, 2007  
Customer No. 27752

## REMARKS

### Interview

Applicants again gratefully acknowledge the telephonic interview of March 26, 2007 with Examiner Markoff. This interview was extremely helpful in understanding the Examiner's position.

### The Advisory Action

The instant claims remain rejected for the reasons set forth in the Advisory Action dated April 10, 2007. Applicants had previously argued the instant claims to a cleaning pad were distinguishable over the prior art, based upon the presence of claimed slits in the cleaning pad.

However, an incorrect set of claims was attached to Applicant's response. That set of claims did not reflect the limitation of the slits, added by amendment dated Sept. 11, 2006. Accordingly, the Examiner did not consider this limitation, even though it was present in the claims as argued in Applicant's response.

A correct and accurate set of claims is attached above. The Examiner is respectfully requested to consider the remarks below, as relates to the presence of the claimed slits in the scrubbing layer and to reconsider and withdraw the rejections over the prior art.

### Rejections Over the Prior Art

Claims 1, 14 and 22 are rejected under 36 USC 102(b) over U.S. 5,090,832, (Rivera et al.). Claims 2 and 9 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) over Rivera in view of U.S. 3,629,047 (Davison). Rivera is said to teach all aspects of the invention, except the scrim.

Claim 1 recites a cleaning pad having an absorbent layer is positioned between a scrubbing layer and a fluid impermeable attachment layer. Claim 1 expressly recites slits in the scrubbing layer.

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The instant specification notes, "The scrubbing layer preferably contains openings (e.g., slits) that provide an easy avenue for larger particulate soil to move freely in and become entrapped within the absorbent layer of the pad." (Specification page 8, lines 1-18).

Rivera does not teach slits. Instead, Rivera teaches the use of a nonwoven. The Office Action correctly notes that the Rivera nonwoven permits passage of soiled liquid to the absorbent layer (see Office Action Page 3, lines 3 – 4). This is consistent with the Rivera teaching that (at best) the scrubber layer is "porous for the entrapment of soil" (see Rivera Col. 1, lines 55 – 56).

However, the Rivera uptake of soiled liquid and entrapment of soil do not provide the benefit of the claimed scrubbing layer having slits which allow soil to move through the claimed scrubbing layer. By moving through the scrubbing layer, the soil is isolated from the surface to be cleaned and cannot scratch or abrade that surface. If one were to utilize the Rivera nonwoven (not having the claimed slits) entrapped soil can simply be wiped across the surface to be cleaned, resulting in scratches, resoiling, etc.

One of ordinary skill reading Rivera would not be lead to provide the claimed slits in the scrubbing layer. Rivera does not recognize the problem of entrapped soil, and cannot suggest the solution of allowing the soil to pass through the scrubbing layer to the absorbent layer. By providing the claimed slits, soil can be isolated from the surface to be cleaned.

There are no outstanding objections or rejections under 35 USC 112.


### CONCLUSION

Applicants' previous response was a *bona fide* attempt to respond to all outstanding issues and advance the case on the merits. All arguments previously presented (and repeated herein) corresponded to the claims then pending (and still pending) and further corresponded to the Mar. 26, 2007 interview with the Examiner. The Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw all rejections under 35 USC §§102-03 and allow all claims remaining in the application.

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Respectfully submitted,

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